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La Jolla area PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS Newsletter

spring 2002

Torrey Pines Road Water and Sewer Project Update

Pipeline installation along Torrey Pines Road in La Jolla is about 50 percent complete. BRH-Garver, the contractor, has installed almost half of the water main and about a third of the sewer force main on Torrey Pines Road between Calle De La Plata and Exchange Place.

In late March, the work hours were changed to help minimize the amount of nighttime construction noise (see related article). The new work hours are Monday through Friday from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Please allow extra time when traveling through the construction area.

The project, which calls for laying approximately one-mile of 16-inch water and sewer force main on Torrey Pines Road between Calle De La Plata and Exchange Place, is one part of the La Jolla Area Public Improvement Projects.

The new water main will bring a needed back-up supply of drinking water to the community. The new sewer force main will serve as a backup to Sewer Pump Station 27 and it will help improve the overall efficiency of the area's wastewater system.



One of the antiquated pipes being replaced by this project.

The water main replacement portion of the project was expedited due to the recent history of breaks and deterioration of the main due to age, use and corrosive soils. The water main was originally installed in the 1920's and rehabilitated in the 1950's. ■

Worried about the noise? See related article below for details about the noise abatement plan.

Information Shared at Community Open House

The City of San Diego Water Department held an informative Open House on January 9 regarding the La Jolla Area Public Improvement Projects. Residents and business owners were in attendance at the event held at the Florence Riford Library Center. Representatives from the City's Water, Engineering and Capital Projects and Metropolitan Wastewater Departments were on hand to answer questions and provide an overview of the projects.

The key components of the La Jolla Area Public Improvement Projects include the Torrey Pines Road Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project, the Ardath Road Reconfiguration and Landscaping Project, Torrey Pines Road Water Main Replacement Phase 2 and the relocation of 17 Torrey Pine trees. ■



Local residents check out the changes taking place at the Ardath Road intersection during the Community Open House.

More information about this and other important Water Department Infrastructure Projects taking place throughout San Diego can be found online at: www.sandiego.gov/water

For more information about these La Jolla area public improvements please call the Torrey Pines project information hotline at (619) 533-7539.

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Nighttime Noise Mitigation Plan

As most residents living along Torrey Pines Road have realized, the infrastructure replacement is underway. Due to the number of pipeline breaks and inconveniences originally besetting this area, the Torrey Pines Road Water & Sewer project was developed to help solve this problem. Of course we knew this would not be easy with such high traffic volumes along the corridor and the fact that homes are directly adjacent to the project. Therefore, extensive efforts were made prior to the start of the project to communicate that night work would need to be done and the fact that noise due to construction would not be pleasant.

Even with an extensive community outreach plan and working directly with the contractor to limit

noise as much as possible, one of the major concerns continuing to be expressed by La Jolla residents living on or near Torrey Pines Road is nighttime construction noise. We take this concern very seriously and as a result have had extensive discussions with Councilmember Scott Peters. We are continuing to discuss other measures to reduce noise not only along Torrey Pines Road, but also at the staging area on Ardath Road.

As part of the original construction contract, a noise abatement consultant was hired. In partnership with City staff, Councilmember Scott Peters, and the contractor, several recommendations to alleviate some of the noise were made. Those recommendations have been implemented and are as follows:

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This information is available in alternate formats upon request.

Q A Ardath Road Realignment Project

Since 1986, the City of San Diego's Council District 1, the City's Traffic and Drainage Engineering Division and the community of La Jolla have been working together to define a method to alleviate the heavy traffic congestion at the intersection of Ardath Road and La Jolla Shores Drive. The result of this effort is a new intersection at Ardath Road and Hidden Valley Road. This new intersection will allow drivers to move between two primary arterial streets in La Jolla - Ardath Road and Torrey Pines Road - without having to travel through the La Jolla Shores Drive intersection. Below, questions and answers about this road realignment project provide more detail about this new intersection. (Please refer to the map below.)

Q: How will this project change Hidden Valley Road?
A: Hidden Valley Road will change in two ways. First, Hidden Valley Road will be fully signalized at its connection to Ardath Road. Because of this new intersection, drivers will be able to move between Torrey Pines Road and Ardath Road without having to travel through the La Jolla Shores Drive intersection. This new intersection will also include pedestrian crosswalks. The second change is that the frontage road in front of the Children's School will become a new cul-de-sac. This frontage road was made into a cul-de-sac because cars attempting to access Hidden Valley Road at the frontage road would create unsafe traffic conditions.

Q: How will the new intersection be configured?
A: This new intersection will provide drivers with several new options to travel between Torrey Pines Road, Ardath Road and Hidden Valley Road. These options are as follows:

- 1). From Hidden Valley Road, there will be three traffic lanes. Two lanes will cross Ardath Road to connect to Torrey Pines Road, with one of these lanes accommodating right-hand turns so that drivers may access Ardath Road heading east towards I-5. The third lane will be a dedicated left-hand turn lane so drivers may turn from Hidden Valley Road onto Ardath Road.
- 2). From Ardath Road heading west towards downtown La Jolla, there will be five traffic lanes. One right-hand turn lane will be provided to connect to Torrey Pines Road, two lanes will be provided to continue straight towards the La Jolla Shores Drive intersection and two lanes will be provided to turn left onto Hidden Valley Road.
- 3). From Ardath Road heading east between the La Jolla Shores intersection and this new intersection, there will be five traffic lanes. Two lanes will be dedicated for left-hand turns to Torrey Pines Road; two lanes will continue traveling east toward I-5; and one dedicated right-hand turn lane onto Hidden Valley Road will be provided.

- 4). From Torrey Pines Road heading west, there will be four traffic lanes. Two new lanes will be provided to allow drivers to veer left away from the La Jolla Shores Drive intersection and towards the new intersection. One of these new lanes will be a dedicated left-hand turn lane so those drivers can access Ardath Road heading east toward I-5. The second lane will travel straight through the new intersection onto Hidden Valley Road. The two lanes that do not veer into the new intersection will continue straight to the La Jolla Shores Drive intersection.

Q: With the new road reconfiguration, how will a driver access Azure Coast and Ardath Roads heading west on Torrey Pines Road?
A: Currently on Torrey Pines Road heading towards La Jolla, a driver can turn left from Torrey Pines Road onto Ardath Lane to access either Ardath Road or Azure Coast. After the road is realigned, drivers will still be able to turn left on Ardath Lane to access Azure Coast. However, they will **not** be able to access Ardath Road. In order to access Ardath Road, drivers will need to proceed on Torrey Pines Road. ■

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All equipment being used at the construction site on Torrey Pines Road and at the staging area will use a circular traffic pattern. This new traffic pattern will cut back on use of the back-up alarms that cause a beeping sound when they are activated. 2. Saw cutting and Jack hammering will be scheduled earlier in the evening and when it needs to be done at night, boards will be placed right next to the equipment to block the noise from traveling as much as possible. Lights at the staging area are being redirected away from nearby homes. 3. All options have been explored for the purpose of noise reduction. The most viable option now being piloted is the change in work schedule to 4 day/10 hour shifts, with the work starting at 8 p.m. and completing daily at 6 a.m., Monday through Thursday. This change allows the contractor to perform the same amount of work in 4 days as they would in 5 days and it will provide the community with 3 days and nights of relief. 	<p>process for variances is a lengthy one. Therefore, it cannot be guaranteed that these variances can be reviewed and studied in time to bring relief for this particular project. However, future projects, particularly the Ardath Road Realignment Project, may be able to benefit from these applications. As a final note, the City is working toward joining forces with local contractor organizations to petition the State Cal-OSHA Board to allow for safe alternatives to the back-up alarm beepers on a permanent basis, as opposed to the variances mentioned above which are on a project by project basis. This petition process however, is a long term consideration.</p> <p>Please note that the back-up alarms that beep are safety precautions that have saved many lives since they have been instituted. Construction projects by nature have hazards associated with them. Furthermore, nighttime construction work has hazards that do not occur during the day. Nighttime workers are more out of their element than during day construction and drivers on the street need more skills to negotiate traffic control, which increases risks to workers. Although the back-up alarms that beep are annoying to many, they are the present Cal-OSHA approved safety device. Ensuring safety on this project is paramount for all.</p> <p>A noise abatement specialist will monitor noise levels regularly. These modifications should help reduce construction noise while the Torrey Pines Road Water and Sewer Improvement Projects are underway. This project is scheduled to be complete by August 2002. ■</p>

The City is also looking to resolve noise as it relates to back-up alarms on several other fronts. First, the contractor is in the process of applying to Cal-OSHA for a variance to use strobes in lieu of back-up alarms. In addition, the contractor has been asked to apply for an experimental variance to use a radar system that detects persons behind a vehicle and sets off an alarm, as opposed to constant beeping. The application

High Lines on Torrey Pines Road Water & Sewer Project
 High lines were installed beginning in December of 2001 to provide temporary water service during construction. As of early March 2002 all of the necessary high line has been installed from Calle de la Plata to Exchange Place.
 If you see a high line leaking please call the Water Department Emergency Phones at (619) 515-3525. ■

Gilman Drive/UCSD Trunk Sewer
 The City of San Diego is currently constructing the new UCSD Trunk Sewer that will service the UCSD campus, residential developments west of I-5 and along Gilman Drive south of Villa La Jolla Drive and surrounding areas. For information on this project or to be placed on the newsletter mailing list, please call the City of San Diego's Group Job Hotline at (858) 571-5081. ■

